

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A negative active material for a rechargeable lithium battery comprising:

a core including crystalline carbon, amorphous carbon or a mixture thereof; and

a carbon shell formed around the core, the carbon shell including carbon derived from amorphous carbon and having an intermediate structure between an amorphous structure and a crystalline structure and at least one shoulder at 700°C or more in differential thermal analysis, and the carbon shell including a metal selected from the group consisting of a transition metal, an alkali metal and an earth metal.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

3. (Original) The negative active material of claim 1, wherein the transition metal is selected from the group consisting of Ni, Co, Fe, Mo and Cr; the semi-metal is selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Ga, Si, and Sn, the alkali metal is selected from the group consisting of Na and K; and the alkali earth metal is selected from the group consisting of Mg and Ca.

4. (Original) The negative active material of claim 1 wherein the amount of the metal is 0.1 to 25 wt % of the core.

5. (Original) The negative active material of claim 1 wherein the core has a planar distance of d_{002} of 3.35 to 3.7 Å of an X-ray diffraction plane distance at a(002) plane.

6. (Currently Amended) A negative active material for a rechargeable lithium battery comprising:

a core including secondary particles, the secondary particle being prepared by agglomerating at least one primary particle of a crystalline carbon, an amorphous carbon or a mixture thereof; and

a carbon shell formed around the core, the carbon shell including carbon derived from amorphous carbon and having an intermediate structure between an amorphous structure and a crystalline structure and at least one shoulder at 700°C or more in

differential thermal analysis, and the carbon shell including a metal selected from the group of consisting of a transition metal, a semi-metal, an alkali metal and an alkali earth metal.

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The negative active material of claim 6 wherein the transition metal is selected from the group consisting of Ni, Co, Fe, Mo and Cr; the semi-metal is selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Ga, Si, and Sn, the alkali metal is selected from the group consisting of Na and K; and the alkali earth metal is selected from the group consisting of Mg and Ca.

9. (Original) The negative active material of claim 6 wherein the amount of the metal is 0.1 to 25 wt % of the core.

10. (Original) The negative active material of claim 6 wherein the core has a planar distance of d_{002} of 3.35 to 3.7 Å of an X-ray diffraction plane distance at a(002) plane.

Claims 11-16 (Cancelled).